



**IN MOURNING** — Students, friends, and neighbors of Southern Baptist representative Cheryl Harvey gather to mourn Sept. 10 at the center where she taught in Irbid, Jordan. (BP photo)

## Harvey memorialized

### Jordanians mourn loss of slain Southern Baptist

**IRBID, Jordan (BP)** — A warm breeze whips sand around cars creeping down the main street of Irbid, Jordan. A man gestures to catch the attention of a carload of Americans, then lays his hand over his heart.

He knows there is only one place they can be going. It seems the whole city is mourning the death of Southern Baptist representative Cheryl Harvey.

"Even now, I can't believe she has died," said Eman, a young Jordanian woman, as she clutches a small cup of the bitter Arabic coffee typically served at wakes.

Eman is among dozens at the wake, shedding tears, sharing stories, and paying their respects to the woman who "loved everyone and was loved by everyone." They are crowded in the

small classrooms in Irbid where Harvey taught. "Many people loved Miss Cheryl," Eman said, "many, many."

Harvey, 55, from Sudan, Texas, taught English and other subjects in Jordan for 24 years. She was found stabbed to death in her apartment on Sept. 4. Robbery was the apparent motive, according to police reports, and a suspect has been apprehended.

Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., appealed for prayer.

"We pray for her immediate family members in Texas, and for her family members and friends around the world, but especially in Jordan," Elliff said. "The impact of Cheryl's life will live on for eternity. For Cheryl's assailant and his family, we pray God's mercy and grace to invade the dark corners of his heart. For us, Cheryl's death

see HARVEY on p. 6

## Southwestern Seminary evangelism professor emeritus Fish dies at 81

**FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)** — Roy J. Fish, Southwestern Seminary distinguished professor emeritus of evangelism, died Sept. 10 at age 82.

Many Southern Baptists considered Fish's name synonymous with "evangelism," a fitting remembrance for the man who served Southwestern for nearly 50 years and once occupied the L. R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism, known as "The Chair of Fire."

As Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson put it, "Dr. Roy Fish was at once a fabulous lecturer and the most consistent soul winner I know. He lit a fire under thousands of students. While we support his family in heart-felt prayer, and while he is irreplaceable for us, we rejoice with Dr. Fish and his entry to his Heavenly home. God help us all to love lost people like he did."

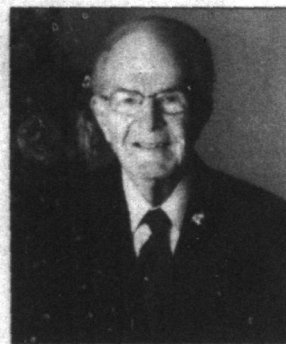
As a Southwestern professor, Fish impacted the lives of thousands of students, many who credit him with instilling a fire for evangelism in their souls. Fish organized for many years the annual Spring Break Revival Practicum, now called Revive This Nation, as the seminary sent out hundreds of student preachers across the United States to preach revivals in local churches.

Fish held several prominent denominational positions, including second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and interim president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Alpharetta, Ga.

Kevin Ezell, NAMB's president, studied under Fish at Southwestern and described him as a personal soul-winner with a contagious passion for the Gospel.

"Dr. Fish left his imprint on thousands of students over the years and our convention is much better for it. I rejoice that he is now with the Savior he so loved, but I grieve for the loss of his family and our entire convention is experiencing today," Ezell said.

"NAMB is indebted to Dr. Fish for the year he served as interim president from 2006 to 2007. He lent his leadership and credibility at a time of uncertainty here at NAMB."



**FISH**

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, called Fish a hero. "Having known him for over 30 years, I can truly say he is one of the greatest men I ever knew. Never did I see him or speak to him that he was not a positive encouragement to me. I love him and cannot wait to see him in heaven."

Fish served as pastor or interim pastor at more than 20 churches, and spoke and preached at conventions, conferences, and churches on every continent except Antarctica. He authored several books and numerous articles and essays on evangelism.

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## Miss. evangelist convicted of voyeurism

**OLIVE BRANCH, Ms. (Special)** — Former Baptist evangelist Sammy Nuckolls was convicted of 13 counts of video voyeurism on Sept. 14 in Olive Branch for using tiny, high-tech equipment to record young women in private settings.

According to reports from various news outlets, DeSoto County Circuit Judge Gerald Chatham found Nuckolls guilty after Nuckolls waived his right to a jury trial. Chatham then sentenced Nuckolls to ten years without parole in the Mississippi State Penitentiary and fined him \$85,000.

Entered into evidence was

a video in which Nuckolls can clearly be seen setting up recording equipment in the bathroom of his home in Olive Branch to video the women undressing, showering, and conducting other intimate actions in what they thought was a private setting. Another portion of the video played in court shows Nuckolls attempting to maneuver a small camera under the skirts or dresses of unsuspecting women.



**NUCKOLLS**

Earlier this year, Nuckolls

see NUCKOLLS on p. 7



## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS



**LAID TO REST** — The body of Southern Baptist representative Cheryl Harvey, who was found dead Sept. 4 in her Irbid, Jordan, apartment as a result of what Jordanian authorities believe was an attempted robbery, was returned to Texas for burial on Sept. 15. Family, friends, and colleagues attended the service in Sudan, Texas. (BP photo)

## Gone, but not forgotten

Perhaps Cheryl Harvey wouldn't have wanted the fuss of a big, elaborate funeral. Perhaps she would have been okay with the small turnout for her graveside service. After all, she had been far away from home for almost a quarter century as friends and family members built their lives in her absence.

Cheryl Harvey was a Southern Baptist representative who spent much of her adult life in the middle eastern country of Jordan, teaching English and reaching out to the people there in ways that only a Christian called and dedicated to Kingdom service could. She was murdered some time around Sept. 4 during what Jordanian authorities believe was an attempted robbery at her apartment in Irbid. A suspect is in custody.

Some will likely argue that she did not die a martyr's death, using a strict interpretation of that phrase. However, there's no doubt she gave her life for the cause when she could have been living a secure, comfortable life in the States instead of being on the front lines in the Middle East — one of the most violent and lawless parts of the world, and a place where a woman's life can be in special jeopardy.

None of that mattered to her. She knew she was called, she knew the

possibilities, and she was still willing to serve. "I didn't think I was going to Jordan," she told one colleague at the time, according to Baptist Press, "but if that's where God is calling me, that's where I'll go."



HARVEY

She never looked back. "She was the most selfless person I knew, and the busiest. I don't know how she did all she did every day," a co-worker in Jordan told Baptist Press.

"She is an angel, really. She is angel," one of her students, still struggling with her death and referring to her in the present tense, told Baptist Press. "She is always smiling and always loving, not just my family, but many, many families. She's a very honest worker, and she has helped me with all my life."

The many sacrifices that Cheryl Harvey made in order to serve as she did will hardly be noted by the secular world. They won't understand why she was so committed to doing what she did, because they are lost. May we recommit ourselves to helping those in need of salvation understand, and may we be found faithful in our support of those like Cheryl Harvey who are willing to give all they have — including their very lives — to see the mission fulfilled.

After what our Lord and Savior did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

## Get SS year off to a good start

Most churches have just experienced the launch of a new Sunday School year. Some call it Advance Day. Most still just call it Promotion Day.

Many kids are getting used to new rooms. Students are getting acquainted with new leaders. Some adults have returned to their classes while others have left their groups to become missionaries to kids. There is new energy and enthusiasm. Here are a few tips to sustain momentum throughout the new year:

■ **Recognize the new team of Sunday School leaders in worship.** You can make this as creative as you like, but at least ask all the new leaders to stand and be recognized by the congregation or have them come down front for a commissioning charge and/or prayer.

Preparing a bulletin insert listing the classes and names of the leaders would be another way to recognize these folks. You might even wait until mid- or late-September to make sure everybody is included, especially those who have signed on after the beginning of the year.

■ **Acknowledge workers from adult classes who are helping with kids and students.** Make a poster, decorate a bulletin board, or create a portable display (think science project tri-fold board) with names — or even better, photographs — of the members who are serving as "missionaries to kids" from your class during the new year.

If you prepare a bulletin insert as suggested above, consider including the designation of the leader's adult class in parenthesis behind their name. Make sure every member of your adult group serving with kids and students is assigned to a care group leader. If you can only enlist one care group leader, enlist one for them!

■ **Assign members to care group leaders.** A new year is a great time to divide adult classes into care groups of 5-7 men or women and enlisting someone to stay in touch with the assigned members. The job description is simple: contact every member every week. It doesn't have to be a long conversation. A quick call will do.

Also, I suggest care group leaders seldom mention attendance. The goal is



### Guest opinion

with David Francis

simply to check in, even if the person was there last Sunday. Stuff happens to attendees during the week, too!

■ **Encourage social activities.** Help people get to know each other. In a children's class, think of an activity that will help the parents get to know each other. In an adult class, don't forget to invite the missionaries to kids from your class.

■ **Give leaders a small gift.** A book is always good. A personal note inside each book would make it extra special. If it's not too big a task, ask the pastor to sign it, too. You might do this at Christmas. Start shopping now. The all-time favorite among my teachers was the book, *Easy for You to Say!*, a guide to pronouncing Bible names.

One year I gave Serendipity Bibles. Another year, when the budget was tight, I bought an inexpensive devotional book and wrote personal notes to each person.

■ **Rediscover the practice of literature distribution.** Churches used to make it a normal practice to deliver a copy of the personal study guide to each member on the class roll. It only requires a short visit at the member's door. Try not to get in — just drop by for a quick chat and hand the member a copy of the book as a tangible demonstration that the class is not complete without them.

Take a copy to prospective members, too. You may be surprised how many will show up as a result of the personal visit. That's momentum.

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# Miss. Baptist couple's movie makes nationwide debut

**FORT WORTH, Texas (BP and local reports)** — Movie tough guy Marshall Teague has a tender spot for his lead role in *Last Ounce of Courage*, the just-released movie written and executive produced by Richard and Gina Headrick, members of Salem Heights Church, Laurel.

If it's the last role he ever plays, "my life as an actor would be complete," the veteran actor told Baptist Press.

The movie, which opened in 1,200 theaters nationwide on Sept. 14, tells the story of Bob Revere (played by Teague), a combat veteran who suffered the loss of his son 14 years earlier. Revere, a part-time pharmacist and part-time mayor in the fictional town of Mt. Columbus, is mired in complacency until his grandson challenges him to take a stand for faith and freedom.

Revere begins by using his position as mayor to restore Christmas displays to public buildings in Mt. Columbus. Enter Warren Hammerschmidt (played by ex-NFL great Fred Williamson) from D.C., leader of a powerful civil liberties organization, to challenge Bob's right to restore Christmas.

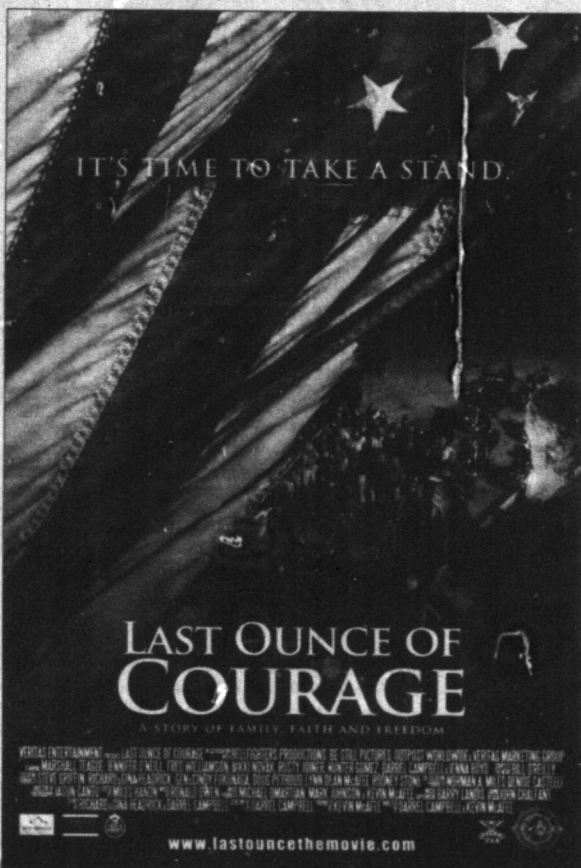
*Last Ounce of Courage* could be "this year's *Courageous*," a 20-something attendee said after a screening of the film at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth on Aug. 31. Another described the movie as "very moving and inspirational. It has a great message. We've been silent way too long."

*Courageous* is the name of a Christian movie produced by Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga. The church has produced a line of successful Christian movies over the past several years that include *Facing the Giants*, *Fireproof*, and *Courageous*.

*Last Ounce* all started with sweatshirts. Evangelist Bailey Smith asked friends Richard and Gina Headrick, owners of a Laurel, Mississippi-based advertising and signage enterprise and members of First Church, Laurel, to print sweatshirts saying: "Christmas is not just a holiday — it's a holy day." People could wear the sweatshirts to office parties and holiday gatherings, taking a public stand for Jesus in a world increasingly antagonistic to expressions of faith.

The idea inspired the Headricks to write and publish a small booklet, *Keeping Christ in Christmas*, later commissioning an audio CD. The Headricks provided the material to actor/writer/producer Darrel Campbell, whose lengthy resume includes the film, *The Pistol*, and projects for Disney and ESPN.

Campbell initially wanted to produce a short video based on the booklet for use in churches.



The Headricks, praying about financing a longer production, embraced a greater vision.

"The Lord spoke, 'I will give you a story for a movie,'" Richard Headrick said. It was a Thursday evening. By the following Monday morning, the plot was finished. Campbell, who appears in the film in a comic role, then wrote the screenplay.

"Darrel took a sow's ear and made it into a silk purse," said Richard Headrick, whose piercing blue eyes, folksy humor, and Willie Nelson ponytail made him perfect for a cameo role in the movie.

Campbell enlisted a Los Angeles casting agency, assembled the first of three crews, and directed shooting in Paola, Kan.

Teague's name surfaced for the lead when a friend who had worked with him in 1989's *Road House* recommended him to casting directors. "You don't know what his [Marshall's] heart is," the friend told the executives, who only knew Teague as a movie tough guy.

Teague was immediately enthusiastic. "I knew from the second I read the script that it was special," the actor said. "I was blessed to have the opportunity to play the role and to do something different — to look people in the eye and tell them the truth from my heart."

The Headricks sold property, recruited investors, even moved to Kansas for the filming. Eventually Kevin McAfee was brought in to direct the second part of the film. McAfee, founder of Veritas and former CEO of Every Tribe Entertainment, has a resume as a music and film producer as comprehensive as Campbell's.

An ordained Southern Baptist minister who served 11 years as a media minister, McAfee had produced the films, *End of the Spear*, and *Beyond the Gates of Splendor*. McAfee broadened the scope of *Last Ounce of Courage*, taking production to Washington, D.C., and Silverton, Colo., among other locations. McAfee also handled the film's post production.

The movie was finished in 2008, coinciding with the nation's economic downturn. "[The film] was 'in the can,'" Richard Headrick said. "It sat there... We didn't know what to do with it."

"We thought we had the world's most expensive DVD on our shelves," Gina Headrick said.

Efforts to promote the movie generated little interest until an individual at a 2012 screening at Universal Studios in California offered to finance the distribution. To encourage Chris-



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION** — Kevin McAfee (left), director of the movie, *Last Ounce of Courage*, and actor Marshall Teague (right) film a scene for the movie that was written and executive produced by Richard and Gina Headrick, members of Salem Heights Church, Laurel. (Photos courtesy of Veritas Entertainment)

tians to participate in public affairs, the anonymous investor stipulated the film be in theaters before the November 2012 elections. Veritas and the Headricks agreed.

McAfee downplayed the movie's political implications, saying, "This is not a film for Republicans, Democrats, or Independents. It is a film for Americans," addressing the nation's embattled religious freedom.

"Twenty-five years ago, everything that seemed right is wrong, and now what is wrong is right," McAfee said. "Our nation is in trouble."

Like the fictional Bob Revere, Richard and Gina Headrick are members of the biker ministry, *Hellfighters*, which they founded seven years ago and is now in 15 states. With the Headricks' many business and media ventures, they are seldom still. Company spokesperson Lance Chancellor said 95% of Headrick corporate profits go to support missionary and nonprofit work toward encouraging people to make a difference.

The producers call *Last Ounce of Courage* an intergenerational film, with "something for every age group," as Gina Headrick put it. From teen actors Hunter Gomez and Jenna Boyd to seasoned Hollywood veterans Teague and Jennifer O'Neill, the film's talent pool is deep.

The film's musical score is by Grammy-winner Michael Omartian and others.

At Southwestern Seminary, a pre-screening gala was hosted by the Headricks, Veritas, and the seminary. Some 200 guests dined on Texas fare: brisket, cornbread, beans, and pecan pie. Richard Headrick regaled the audience with an account of the movie's history, introducing producers, actors, and Veritas partners in attendance.

Headrick also made special presentations to individuals

significant to the film. Steven Smith, dean of the College at Southwestern, accepted a plaque for his father, Bailey Smith, whose yearning to keep Christ in Christmas originally inspired the project.

While the name of the film's main character suggests the patriot silversmith Paul Revere, the Headricks based the character of Bob Revere on their friend Bob Kendrick, longtime missionary to El Salvador. Presenting Kendrick with a plaque at the gala, Headrick said, "Bob never backed up. He has planted hundreds of churches, trained hundreds of pastors and begun Bible institutes in El Salvador [via Kendrick Ministries]. He is an example of what one man with courage can do for God."

Dorothy Patterson, wife of Southwestern Seminary's president and professor of theology in women's studies, also was recognized by Headrick, who said he modeled the character of Revere's wife Dottie after Patterson, noting, "Behind every successful man is a good woman."

The dinner concluded with remarks from seminary president Paige Patterson, who also requested prayer for military chaplains trained at Southwestern Seminary.

The guests then joined more than 500 others in Southwestern's Truett Auditorium for a screening of the film, followed by remarks by director McAfee and introductions of cast, crew, and producers and recognition of military veterans in the audience.

McAfee made an appeal to audience members to encourage friends and neighbors to see *Last Ounce* in theaters. An autograph session followed with Teague and other actors in the film.

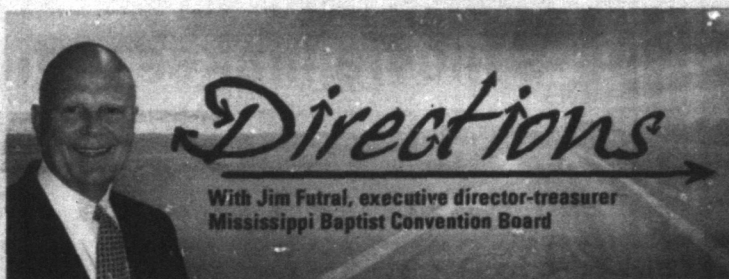
For more information and to view videos about the movie, visit <http://www.standusa.com/last-ounce-of-courage/>.

For years a national insurance company has presented themselves in their advertising mantra as the Good Hands People. This article is not about them, and it is actually about the good hands people that Jesus spoke to in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, "But when you do alms, let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Matt. 6:3). It is almost impossible to read through a handful of verses in the Gospels without running into beggars and deeply needy people. The practice of helping these people, giving them some money, and encouraging them was the practice of almsgiving. In scripture, it appears that there were always many more beggars than there were blessers. But clearly there were goodhearted, sensitive, and generous people who were willing to help out.

There are still needs among us and there are still gracious responders among us. The other day I was reminded about this old practice that in some ways continues until this day as I was reading of the annual promotion of **Make a Difference Day**. It always takes place in October and the chief promoter of the idea is the USA WEEKEND magazine insert that is in millions of newspapers across the land. Annually there is the buildup promotion and then the follow-up celebration of telling the stories. Without a doubt, it is a day that makes a difference in lots of people's lives and not only for those who receive a helping hand of encouragement and a blessing from someone but even more so for those who are handing it out.

In that light, while you do not have to wait until a specific day in October to do it, why not make a difference in someone's life today and follow Jesus' guidelines in being the Good Hands People. I want to suggest to you some things to do and not to do as you reach out and touch someone's life.

**Number one — Do something thoughtful, helpful, encouraging, and God led to touch someone's life.** Express how much it meant then and even more what it means now. Sit down and write them. It could be a note that you write to someone that you have never met about how their work, their influence, and their life have been an inspiration to you and they have no idea. It may be that you want to send a gift



## The Good Hands People

to someone. Now please understand that I am talking about an anonymous encouraging note and an unidentified gift that simply says, "You blessed my life. As I celebrate with joy what I have received from your inspiration, I wanted to share this with you."

It may be that you simply want to express to someone your prayer support for them. Make it a meaningful expression of prayer as you drop them a note to say that you recognize that they are dealing with some big issues, have great responsibilities of leadership, or may be carrying a great burden and you just wanted them to know that you are praying for them. You do not need to sign it. You do not need to even tell your non-writing hand what you wrote.

**The second thing is something not to do.** Do what you do and do not tell anybody. For Jesus said, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." I think He was saying to us don't even talk to yourself about it. Sometimes we do things for others, send them a note, provide a gift, pray for them, and give them some money at the corner as they shiver in the drizzling rain looking like they actually do need help. We do our good deed, and we can hardly wait to find the appropriate place and opportunity to tell what we did. Even if we cannot get a group gathered together to announce the grandeur of our kindness, we play it over and over again in our minds to reaffirm to ourselves that we do live on the edge of sainthood.

I love to hear and to read inspirational stories of great things that people have done, but on the other hand I know a few things in life that are more repulsive than self-promoting glory. Often the telling of the story of our goodness is far better than any good thing that we ever did. It is a deed with an empty, hollow ring. I would go so far as to encourage you to not even remember what you did. Now I know that is probably impossible because the more you tell somebody not to remember something the more they are going to remember it. Just forget it! Do not tell others! Don't remind yourself; thank God for the privilege that you had, and let it go.

**That brings me to a third thing and that is another do.** Do simply leave it in the hands of the needy person and even more so in the hands of God. Oh you may see it again, but when you do you may not even recognize it or remember. Many years ago as a young pastor I was faced with a decision that was then and still is way beyond my pay grade or ability. I honestly had prayed about an issue, tried to find biblical wisdom to apply to it, and was totally stymied and unable to find a God guided answer. There was a great old preacher in our state who I had heard, watched, and been blessed by his ministry though I was confident that he did not even know my name. One day I felt impressed to call him and so I did. I told him what I was dealing with and I asked him if he had any insights into

how I could best proceed. He took the time to thoughtfully deal with the issue and walk through some various options. After 15 to 20 minutes of conversation, we hung up and I followed his guidance. It was amazing for in the weeks, months, and years that followed it was incredible how God affirmed the decision, the steps, and the outcome of what he had guided me to consider.

Decades passed and I had the privilege of getting to know that great pastor better and better. One day just in a casual conversation as we were visiting, I asked him if he remembered me calling him that day. He looked at me so strange and he just kind of shook his head and said, "No." I told him what I had called him about thinking that would generate a thought. Finally, I told him the advice that he gave me so many, many years before. He absolutely looked bewildered. He was still sharp as a tack and pushing to live on the cutting edge of ministry, but he actually had no recollection of what so profoundly was fixed in my mind that had made a difference in my life. It was just a pause in his daily existence to take a phone call from a young struggler and to stop long enough to give alms to me. I am confident that whenever the left hand heard about what the right hand did that both hands were just astonished at what the results were and how God had used what now had faded from his memory.

So the bottom line of what I am asking you to do is something good, something God guided, something that will bless someone else, and then simply let it go in the hands of God. If you hear from it again, good. You will probably be shocked by it. If you never hear from it again until the echoes are in heaven, good. It was a God guided, God intended experience. Let me encourage you not to wait until October and **Make a Difference Day**, but start today and make a difference. You do not need to tell anyone about your decision, what you are planning on doing, or what you did. Just let God guide you and do it. Then look forward to the sunrise tomorrow and let Him do it again through you.

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## BIBL i O C I P H E R

KBRI RVDIR Z CXFR HDM CD IRADIE

CBNZ EXH, CBXC Z XQ LMIR VIDQ CBR

WGDDE DV XGG QRY.

XACN CKRYCH: CKRYCH-NZT

Clue: R = E

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Five: Forty-five

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 20, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

## unexpected

THE FUNDS RAISED BY MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING GO TO:

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## \$2 MILLION GOAL

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## ONE-DAY

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# ABIDE

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Nov. 12-14, 2012

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, Miss.

Student ministry is exhausting. It is easy to become exhausted physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually wiped out. The Mississippi Baptist Student Ministers' Retreat offers a time of spiritual nourishment, renewal, and the opportunity to sharpen our ministry skills.

### Featured Speaker

Stuart Hall

Founder of Dash Student Leadership, Stuart Hall has fourteen-plus years of youth ministry experience. His unique blend of humor and powerful application make him one of America's best student communicators, with a heart to raise generations of youth that are spiritually influential on their culture.



### Worship Leader

Bethany Barr Phillips

A native Mississippian, Bethany has been singing and writing since the age of 17. She travels the country at every opportunity to share the love and hope that are found in Jesus Christ alone.



### Breakout Conference Speaker

Hal Shelby

Hal and his wife, Lisa, are the ministry directors of Refuge 461, a ministry to individuals, couples, and parents whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. As Mission Service Corps Missionaries with the North American Missions Board, they also are available to help churches to know how to respond redemptively.



### NO COST

#### Registration required:

1-Register online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org), look for the Student Ministers' Retreat link near the bottom of the home page.

2-Make reservations directly with Lake Tiak O'Khata if you are staying at the hotel. Lodging/Meal Package can be found under the same link as above.

\*Information available for the economical bunkhouse option.

Retreat Schedule found under the same link on [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

Contact: Ken Hall, [khall@mbcb.org](mailto:khall@mbcb.org), (800) 748-1651, ext. 286, or  
Rene Edwards, [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org), (800) 748-1651, ext. 283

## AMD & Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Baptist Building Chapel

In order that we might prepare, please notify Keith Gordon, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, 601-292-3307, or [kgordon@mbcb.org](mailto:kgordon@mbcb.org) if you will attend. Wives are also invited.

2013 STATE

# Senior ADULT RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON  
(601-853-1090, EXT. 33)

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION/REFRESHMENTS  
(\$1 AT THE DOOR)

9:00 A.M. RALLY

BROADWAY-ON-THE-DRIVEWAY  
PRESENTS

"Swing It, Louis"

10:00 A.M. BREAK

10:45 A.M. BREAK-OUTS:

1. "FUN TIME WITH TONY MARTIN" - MBCB
2. "HISTORY IN HYMNS" - IRENE MARTIN, HARPERVILLE
3. LEADERSHIP: HOW TO LEAD, TEACH, AND MOTIVATE SENIORS TODAY - GARY MAYHELD, CLINTON

11:45 A.M. ADJOURN

# RA DAY 2012!!



IMB MISSIONARY - ALVIN DOYLE  
FOOTBALL GAME, MUSIC  
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON  
OCTOBER 6

REGISTRATION: 10 A.M.

PROGRAM: 10:30 A.M.

GAME: 1 P.M.

COST: \$7

LUNCH: YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN  
OR PURCHASE ONE FOR \$6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DEANNA VAN

601-292-3335

(800) 748-1651

EXT. 335





## MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

**October 29, 2012**

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

FBC, Jackson

Christian Life Center Dining Room

**Guest Speaker:**

**Janie Walters**

"Blow A Bubble Not A Gasket!" is the topic for this year's conference. This is not only good advice, but also a delightful presentation by Janie. Stress is a major issue today, and Christians are not exempt! This is not just another stress management presentation. It is packed with practical ideas to start using today. Audiences will come away laughing, refreshed, and fully equipped to manage stress.

Preregistration is encouraged so we can be better prepared. Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for registration information: 1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or 601-292-3305  
cwtaylor@mbcb.org

## AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2013

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C=Church O=Office
<b>Thursday, January 24, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>			
Area 2	Calvary BC, 501 W. Main St. Tupelo, 38804	Doug Spires	(C) 662-842-3338
Area 3	FBC, 1706 Delaware Ave. McComb, 39648	Jane Wilkinson	(C) 601-684-2971
Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St. Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South	(O) 601-292-3272 (O) 1-800-748-1651
Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr. BC 4032 Poplar Springs Dr. Meridian, 39305	Michael Gibson	(C) 601-485-5106
Area 5	Carterville BC, 115 Carterville Rd. Petal, 39465	Kris Smith	(C) 601-584-9457
Area 5	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave. Pascagoula, 39567	Michaelle Harrison	(C) 228-762-2343
Area 5	FBC, 607 W. 5th St. Laurel, 39440	Marilyn Huff	(H) 601-763-8731
<b>Friday, January 25, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>			
Area 1	Longview Heights BC 4501 Goodman Rd. Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates	(C) 662-895-1900
<b>Saturday, January 26, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. - noon</b>			
Area 1	FBC, 450 Faith Dr. Grenada, 38901	Andy Cummings	(C) 662-226-3661
Area 1	North Greenwood BC 615 Grand Blvd. Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Etheridge	(C) 662-453-2801

## Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend

**April 6-7, 2013**

**First Baptist Church, Florence, MS**

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir is an auditioned choir for students in grades 4-6 who love to sing and desire to participate in a weekend of arts and worship.

120 Children, grades 4-6, will be chosen from all over Mississippi to participate in an Honor Choir Concert April 6, 2013 at First Baptist Church, Florence.

**Requirement:** Audition.

**COMING SOON:** Audition requirements and an Audition Form may be located (printed) at [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org).

**Registration fee:** \$60 (NON REFUNDABLE) per accepted/registered choir member due no later than February 1, 2013.

**Registration Fee Includes:** 3 meals (students only);  
Snacks  
T-Shirt  
Concert Polo Shirt  
Music

**AUDITION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2012**

**More information:** Contact Wyndy South, Church Music Department, Choir Coordinator, [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org); 1-800-748-1651, x. 272 statewide, or locally at 601-292-3272.

## Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Council Meeting & Banquet

**Monday, October 29, 2012**

Bivo/Small Church Area Coordinators Meeting  
Baptist Building Sky Room  
4th Floor, 1:30 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Council Meeting  
Baptist Building Sky Room  
4th Floor, 3:00 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet  
Baptist Building Sky Room  
4th Floor, 5:00 p.m.

**Registration is preferred for banquet, so we will have a meal for you.**

Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. to make reservations; 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, 601-292-3305 or [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org)

Pray this day for...

September 21 – October 4, 2012

*"I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*  
-Acts 20:24

Pray for a team of seven from **FBC Florence and Sunrise BC, Carthage**, traveling to South East Asia for construction from Sept. 23-Oct. 6.

Pray for: **Janna\* Smith**, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting.

Pray for: **Lane\* Vance**, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in France through evangelism.

Pray for: **David\* and Regina\* White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church planting, church and community outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of four from **Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch**, traveling to Ecuador for a pastor's conference from Sept. 27-Oct. 2.

Pray for: **George and Geraldine\* Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Uganda through church planting and church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas\* Smith**, missionary ministering to American Peoples in Peru through regional office support.

Pray for a team of two from **FBC, Kosciusko**, traveling to Haiti to minister through medical missions Sept. 16-23.

Pray for: **Paul and Donna\* Worsham**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Arnold\* and Mangle\* Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community outreach, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard and Martha\* Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through financial administration, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David and Laurie\* Bledson**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd and Sylvia\* Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of seven from **Highland BC, Crystal Springs**, traveling to East Asia from Sept. 29-Oct. 8.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

## "Embrace Today!" Women's Retreat



**Special Guest Speaker:**  
**Nancy Grigsby**  
Women of Purpose Speak  
Niceville, Fla

**Dates:** Friday, October 19 - Saturday, October 20, 2012

**Time:** Fri., Oct. 19, 3:00 p.m. - Sat., Oct. 20, 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

**Cost:** \$15 Registration Fee + meals & lodging

Refreshing Conferences in store for ALL women will include... Re"Juvenate" Your Body! - Re"Boot" Your Prayer Life! - Re"Cycle" Your Ministry - Re"Discover" the Vision.

visit: [http://mbcb.org/events\\_details.aspx?ID=2586](http://mbcb.org/events_details.aspx?ID=2586)

Contact WMU of the MBCB for more information:  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 319, 601-292-3319

## 41ST ANNUAL CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

**Dates:** October 5-6, 2012

**Time:** Registration begins 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 5

**Location:** First Baptist Church, Kosciusko, Miss.

**Cost:** \$25 per person. Registration deadline is September 21, 2012.



The CLM newsletter, which includes conference information and registration, will soon be ready to mail. To see it now, check our Web site for a copy of the newsletter.

New this year...you will be able to register online.

We look forward to another awesome time of training and fellowship.

**For more information contact Judy Chen, Communication Services at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board:**  
**1-800-748-1651, ext. 378, 601-292-3378**

# HOUSE TOPS



## Faith & Politics

Baptists have historically, and correctly so, supported the view that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the civil right to religious liberty. Baptists believe that religious liberty can be exercised not only inside the church but also outside the church — from main street to Wall Street, from town hall to Capitol Hill, and from your house to the White House.

Before ratification of the First Amendment in 1791, the dominant religion in a colony, such as Congregationalism or Anglicanism, was the official government-sponsored religion. This was the case in over half of the original thirteen colonies.

These colonies imposed taxes on early Americans to fund state-based religion, and there was no freedom to exercise any other religion.

For example, in Virginia the official state religion was Anglican. Non-Anglicans, like Baptists and Methodists, were not only restricted in their freedom to practice their faith, but they were also persecuted for doing so. Court records from Virginia describe how Baptists were imprisoned for praying, had their meetings disrupted by dissenters, and were shot and beaten because they had exercised their faith independent from Anglicanism.

It was not until the early twentieth century that the U.S. Supreme Court fully applied the expression of religious liberty to all states so that any religious faith

could be practiced.

In recent history, however, the pendulum of religious accommodation has begun to swing back to a more oppressive and intolerant era for

Southern Baptists (and most other expressions of faith) as in early colonial times.

The attitude of elitism and extremism that oppressed Baptists in the original colonies has been reintroduced and is intensifying, but there is a significant difference between



with Rob Chambers

the religious oppression and persecution then and now. The new extreme religion of elitists is secularism — no God allowed, no religious expression allowed.

This oppressive attitude began in the 1800s when Christian denominations began to turn away from the basic tenants of the Christian faith. They increasingly embraced the doctrine that human reason was paramount. This meant that if humanity could not rationalize, explain, or scientifically confirm something (such as the divinity of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and creation of the world from nothing) then

either you cannot be certain of it or it must not be true. Buying into this lie is what attributed to the liberalization of mainline denominations. It is also why the Northeast is generally opposed to Southern Baptist (or evangelical) beliefs and practices — religious liberty being one of them — and the U.S. Supreme Court has followed suit.

In the 20th Century, it became politically mainstream that religious expression should not be allowed in any area of government and public policy. This idea manifested itself with the 1947 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Everson v. Board of Education*. The high court not only misinterpreted the Constitution but also Thomas Jefferson's statement on a wall of separation between church and state. The high court erred in judgment when they said the "First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impenetrable. We could not approve the slightest breach."

The wall of separation is to protect the church from the government, not the government from the church.

In 2000, the Supreme Court in *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe* handed down a decision that student-led, student-initiated prayer at high school sporting events violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. This is yet another incremental step in limiting religious liberty and is a result of *Everson v. Board of Education* above.

In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, was signed into law by President Obama. This legislation was also upheld as a tax by the U.S. Supreme Court this year. Obamacare is a frontal assault on religious liberty. Not because it is seen as socialized medicine, but because it imposes a federal tax upon Americans in order to make abortion services available to the masses. It also mandates religious organizations to provide health insurance that pays for those abortions.

What needs to happen today is for people to exercise their religious liberty to influence civil government.

Such people need to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt 10:16) and not belligerent, hot heads.

The Baptist Faith and Message, a statement of beliefs commonly held by Southern Baptists, states that "All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society . . . Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause . . ."

Just as Nehemiah appealed to King Artaxerxes of Persia to restore the ruins of Jerusalem and the Temple (Ezra 7), so should there be people of influence today who work with civic leaders in restoring righteousness in our nation.

This includes identifying and working with leaders who endorse our beliefs, values, or convictions — including religious liberty and the sanctity of human life. Could God use a non-believer to restore righteousness to a nation? Yes. King Artaxerxes was a non-believer.

Incidentally, the U.S. Constitution declares that candidates for a political office are not required to practice any particular form of religion. Article 6, section 3 of the U.S. Constitution states that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

As Christians and as Baptists, we also believe in the liberty of the soul whereby "God alone is Lord of the conscience." So when trying to decide which candidate to support in an election, this is a matter between the voter and Jesus Christ. In doing so, it is essential that Christians pray for wisdom and discernment, and let their decision be based on faith because "everything that does not come from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23).

Chambers serves as consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or [rehambers@christianaction.com](mailto:rehambers@christianaction.com).

### Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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## HARVEY

cont. from p. 1

brings us face to face with the urgent importance of our work. With every word, thought and action we must glorify the One who purchased our salvation."

Harvey was a member of College Heights Church in Plainview, Texas. She grew up attending First Church in Sudan, Texas. She received the bachelor of science degree from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas; the master of arts degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth; and the master of education degree from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. She taught in several Texas schools before going to Jordan.

Harvey is survived by two brothers who reside in Texas. Funeral arrangements are incomplete pending the ongoing police investigation of her death.

To students, friends, and colleagues gathered at the center on Sept. 10, no motive will ever make sense. "I have not been able to sleep since I heard the news," said Muhammad, a

young man Harvey tutored at his home after a problem with his legs made him unable to attend classes.

"I did not sleep, either," said his brother Ahmad, also Harvey's student. "Many of us have not slept," echoed one of Harvey's colleagues.

They smile as they remember Harvey, they recall the many hours she spent working. "She was the most selfless person I knew, and the busiest. I don't know how she did all she did every day," another colleague said.

"She started this center in 2000, and from the very beginning, people came and it grew and grew. And she spent so much of her time visiting the students in their homes. People just met her and loved her immediately."

There are people like Muhammad, who met Harvey on the first day the center opened. Harvey reached out to the shy, young man who rarely talked. He invited her over for Friday lunch, and she "entered the heart" of his entire family.

Harvey ate with them nearly every Friday for the past 12 years, Muhammad said. "I loved her as a mother, and she loved

me as a son, but she didn't just love me. Anyone who asked her for help, she would help," said Muhammad, who had her listed as "Mama" in his mobile phone.

For several hours, Muhammad sat at one of the classroom desks, recounting detail after detail of Harvey's gifts to Irbid, as if he can't get them out fast enough.

"She helped me pass college and nursing school. She sat with me and my sister one day for hours in the hot sun while my sister applied for the army. She took a friend who had cancer back and forth on the long drive to the hospital two or three times a week," he said.

Harvey's closest friends were Jordanians. Most storeowners in the area knew her well. Her dry cleaner wept when he heard of her death. Harvey often spoke of staying in Irbid after she retired, Muhammad said.

"Everyone loved her. The

children in my family would run to her and jump in her arms. She brought them chocolate, and she came over with gifts for them on all our holidays, and we would always go to her house for Christmas and all her holidays," Muhammad said.

"One of her friends had many small children when Miss Cheryl moved to Irbid, and Miss Cheryl told them if they studied hard and passed their

classes, she would take them on a trip somewhere."

Those kids took her at her word, and she kept it, Muhammad said. Now they are in high school.

"She is an angel, really. She is angel," he said. "She is always smiling and always loving, not just my family, but many, many families. She's a very honest worker, and she has helped me with all my life."

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## Revivals, Homecomings & Anniversaries

► **Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Association:** Lovelace Family Homecoming annual churchwide event: Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.; The Whisnants, Josh and Ashley Franks, and Tiffany Blackard.

► **Sunrise Church, Leake Assoc.:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship service 11 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch. No evening service. Robert Walker, speaker; Jim and Marilyn McEachern, music.

► **Damascus Church, Hazlehurst:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship service 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and cemetery meeting; Talmadge Smith, speaker; Reggie Bridges, music.

► **Cambridge Church, Gautier:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship service 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch.

► **Rocky Point Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship service 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Allen Peoples, speaker.

► **Calvary Church, Petal:** 74th Anniversary, Sept. 23; worship service 11 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner on the grounds. Charles Tweedy, speaker.

► **Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; worship service 11 a.m., followed by fellowship and lunch; Rickey Harris, pastor; Wanda Crawford, music.

► **Beulah Church, Lexington:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; O. Lyn Nations, speaker.

► **Silver Creek Church, McComb:** Revival, Sept. 23-26; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Keith Fountain, music; Jimmy T. Smith Jr., pastor.

► **Canaan Church, Benton-Tippah Assoc.:** Fall Revival, Sept. 23-26; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack Bennett, speaker; Kenny and Jennifer Harrison, music; Paul Adams, pastor.

► **Euclatubba Church, Safford:** Revival, Sept. 23-26; Sun., 9:30 a.m. breakfast fellowship; Sun. worship services, 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Freeman, Kenny Davis, and Greg Lakes, speakers; special music each service; nursery provided. Scott Witcher, pastor.

► **Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship service, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Doug Broom, speaker; William Crenshaw and Faye and Ruben Moore, music; Dennis Duval, pastor.

► **First Church, Lumberton:** Revival, Sept. 23-26; Sunday, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds at 11 a.m., and noon worship service; no Sun. evening services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wed. evening youth service; Rusty Kuhn, speaker; Slater Murphy, music. John R. Sapp, pastor.

► **Enon Church, Grenada:** Revival, Sept. 28-30; Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., Masters Quartet concert at 6 p.m., followed by 7 p.m. worship service; Sun., worship services 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

► **Antioch Church, Neshoba Assoc.:** Homecoming, Sept. 29-30; Sat., Squire Parson at 7 p.m.; Sun., worship 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; James Young, speaker.

► **Hopewell Church, Crystal Springs:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; worship service 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch.

► **Topisaw Church, Bogus Chitto:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; Worship service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch. David Moree, pastor.

► **First Church, Southaven:** Homecoming Reunion celebrating 50 years of ministry, Sept. 30; fellowship and reunion time, 9 a.m.; worship service, 10:15 a.m., followed by lunch. Steve Howell, pastor.

► **Calvary Church, Golden Triangle Assoc. (Lowndes Co.):** 75th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration, Sept. 30; 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and media presentation; Roy Hawkins, speaker; Rhonda Beasley, music; Steve Brown, pastor.

► **Freedonia church, New Albany:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; Worship service 10 a.m. Ben Parham, speaker; Zach Moody, music.

► **Shiloh Church, Corinth:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; Lifted Up quartet, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds. David Haynes, speaker.

► **East Pleasant Grove Church, Quitman:** Revival, Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Russell, speaker; Lee Robinson, music.

## MS POSITIONS

**TWIN LAKES BAPTIST, MADISON, MS** IS SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please mail resume to 673 Lake Cavalier Road, Madison, MS 39110 or e-mail to cindyhol2002@yahoo.com

**ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, WESSON, MS** IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resume to Zion Hill Baptist Church, Attention: Youth Minister Search Committee, 8081 Martinsville, Rd., Wesson, MS 39191 or e-mail info@zionhill-wesson.org

**VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, VAIDEN, MS** IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER/ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Interested parties may submit resumes by mail to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Vaiden Baptist Church, 501 Mulberry Street, Vaiden, MS 39176.

**FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER.** Contact Pastor Scott Crawford at Scottcrawford01@msn.com

**FBC INDIANOLA, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Please mail resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Indianola, MS 38751 or e-mail them to fbciindianola@gmail.com

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**MINISTER OF MUSIC:** Wooley Springs Baptist Church, Toney, AL, is looking for a full-time minister of music. Resumes may be mailed to: ATTN: Search Committee, 28025 Bethel Road, Toney, AL 35773, or email: search@wooleysprings.org.

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## Living as Strangers • 1 Peter 2:11-17

Continuing the theme of "Living through Tough Times" Peter reminds us in today's text that our goal is to model exemplary Christian lives in the midst of tough times. Note the urgency in verses 11-12, NIV.

...I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires...live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God...

Aliens and strangers describe visitors to a foreign country. They stand out as being different. They are talked about and made fun of for being different. In the same way, the lost world will examine the lives of Christians and talk about us and the church. Several commands emerge based on this reality.

### 1. Abstain from Doing Evil (v. 11).

...abstain from sinful desires...

As human beings, we all have selfish sinful desires. To the world, a lack of honesty and integrity are accepted as normal in business, politics, marriage, and even religion, though they are clearly forbidden by God in His word. Christians are called by God to abstain from selfish sinful practices even when they are accepted by the world. To make a difference for Christ, we have to be different from the world.

### 2. Excel at Doing Good (v. 12, NIV).

...live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God...

If you live a godly life, Satan will see that you are accused of doing wrong. This is what Satan has always done, since ancient times.

Satan's name literally means, "accuser" and "adversary". As a committed Christian, you "will be" falsely accused of doing

wrong. Your only recourse is to live a life of such integrity that it disproves the accusations. Depraved people (living by the sinful nature without the Holy Spirit) can only imagine depraved motives and actions. In time your godly lifestyle, combined with your witness, can sway many of these depraved persons to come to Christ as Lord and Savior, giving glory to God.

### 3. Submit to Human Authority (v. 13-15).

Submit yourselves for the Lord's

sake to every authority instituted among men...For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence ignorant talk of foolish men.

While the apostles made it clear in the book of Acts that Christians must obey God before men (Acts 4:19), they did not suggest that Christians should live lawless lives. Quite the contrary, Christians are called to

be exemplary citizens wherever they live and under every type of government. When the laws of the land are not in conflict

with the laws of God, Christians must be examples to others in keeping those laws. In Romans 13:1-5 Paul went so far as to call the ruling authorities "servants of God" sent to reward those who do good and punish those who do evil. Paul said rebelling against the authority is rebelling against God. He was referring to the pagan Roman Empire.

As Americans and as Baptists we have a long way to go in understanding and applying this truth. It is not God's will for His people to live in chaos, rebellion and disorder. He is honored when Christians live

peaceably with their government, employers and church leaders. He is equally dishonored when His people live in rebellion to authority in government, the work place, or the church.

### 4. Show Respect for Everyone (v. 17, NIV).

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Satan is looking for any avenue he can find to discredit God and the church. One of his greatest weapons is to create disunity and disrespect among God's people.

This sermon reiterates what is wrong with many of our churches and our country today. Too many who call themselves Christians do not show proper respect for fellow church members, have no fear of God, and give no honor to government. Our nation is deeply divided because two parties refuse to work together to find mutual solutions to our problems. If we as Christians hope to obey Christ and evangelize our world, we must repent of our self-absorption in the church. We must learn to show respect for each other, submit to our elected leaders, and do it in fear of God, who will judge those who do harm to His Kingdom and His Name.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.



## Explore the Bible

with David B. Bishop

## Right Relationships • Matthew 7:1-12

Jesus continues and concludes his sermon on right relationships with others and with God, teaching the disciples to learn to live by faith and not by laws. The disciples learned from being with Jesus physically, day to day, seeing him overcome fatigue, praying, fasting, healing and learning about the sufficiency of God's grace. To be a useful Christian we must practice what Jesus taught in his sermon on the mount. Begone with the pretentious righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees but instead be like your loving Father in heaven.

Vs. 1-5 speak to not being hypocritical when you make judgments. It's pretty clear we can't criticize others' faults while pretending we ourselves are faultless. The not so subtle example Jesus gave has resounded many times around the world. It would be hard not to notice someone with a 2 X 12' board of timber poking out of one's eye while he criticizes a particle of sawdust he sees in another's eye.

"In the same way you judge others, you will be judged..." (NIV Study Bible) We are to have concern for the speck in another's eye but the point is, deal with your own sins first. We are held responsible for others, but we need to know the standards by which we can hold them accountable in the faith. Jesus is here instructing us how to be

prepared. Once you have removed the log from your own eye, your vision will greatly improve and you are now able to improve your friend's vision and perception. The overriding goal of Christianity is to help others be good. Not much is accomplished by criticism, so counsel him, love him, help him, but don't take on the role of God. Put away that measuring rod you're using.

Verse 6 is not spoken against evangelizing the Gentiles. Dogs and pigs are used to describe persons who have rejected the gospel. The gospel of the kingdom is sacred and therefore is forbidden to be trampled on. In Biblical writings pigs are unclean and wild, and dogs are associated with that which is unclean. Pigs will trample on pearls and that which is considered sacred by us evokes disgust from dogs. We are not to spend much time with those found to be obstinate or profane after shar-

ing the gospel, but with discretion, turn to others. Hardened scorners are not fertile ground and many will return with "the dog to his vomit". V. 6 does not excuse us from sharing the gospel with unbelievers due to fear of being turned down, but we are to become discerners about when and how often to confront unbelievers with the good news.

Vs. 7-10 — Now comes the exhortation

to prayer. First pray for the glory of God, and receive the gifts, such as righteousness, humility, love, etc. Three imperatives

— ask, and it shall be given (not lent, not sold, ask and have), seek and you shall find (God himself is found by those who seek, and when we find him, we have enough), and knock (and it shall be opened — if not on the first knock, then continue in prayer). We fall short of true discipleship when we don't ask, seek or knock. Those

gifts offered by the Sermon on the Mount are available to everyone who seeks to access the banquet table, whether Jew or Gentile, young or old, rich or poor, all are welcomed with open arms.

V 11 — A disciple of Christ must attain an attitude of perfect trust so you can ask and seek. Believe at all times that God is there and your dependence grows according to the strength of your conviction. He is there, He answers, He loves you, why worry? Since God knows what is best for us, we are to leave it with Him — "Father, thy will be done". Ask and it shall be given and the petitioning must come naturally and without timidity as a child asking for a drink of water.

V 12 — Finally Christ is teaching us what to know and believe and what to do toward God in particular and toward man in general. Do (action verb) to others as we desire from them. If it's despicable to you, then don't do it to others. This goes back to commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" so both the OT and the NT agree in ordaining us to do as we would be done by. How golden is that?

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.



## Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson



## NUCKOLLS

cont. from p. 1

pled guilty to similar charges in two Arkansas locales where he had been invited to preach. Authorities in Gosnell and Waldron charged him with using the high-tech recording equipment in the

homes of church members where he was staying. He was fined, given suspended sentences, and placed on probation in those cases. He was also ordered to register with the State of Arkansas as a sex offender.

Voyeurism allegations against Nuckolls in Seymour, Texas, where he has been invited to

preach at a local church, have not yet been adjudicated. Police there have charged Nuckolls and turned the case over to the local district attorney.

Nuckolls' secret videos came to light while he was staying at the home of a Gosnell youth minister in whose church he had been invited to preach. The minister's

wife became suspicious of Nuckolls' behavior and discovered a sophisticated video recorder disguised as a writing pen that contained images of her in the bathroom.

She contacted Gosnell police, who seized the pen along with Nuckolls' laptop computer and found numerous voyeuristic recordings

from several locations on the laptop's hard drive.

Nuckolls' attorney has indicated that the Mississippi conviction and sentence may be appealed. Chatham, the judge in the case, also questioned Nuckolls' mental condition and ordered a psychiatric evaluation, which could affect Nuckolls' sentence.

## Just for the Record



**IMMANUEL CHURCH, MID-DELTA ASSOCIATION**, hosted a hamburger cookout for Delta State University's football team and staff.



Ricky Chaney was ordained and installed as a deacon of **TRINITY CHURCH, MONROE ASSOCIATION**, on June 3. Pictured are Chaney (left) and Pastor Justin Simmons.



**HOPE CHURCH, NESHOPA ASSOCIATION**, ordained Nelson White Jr. as deacon on Sept. 9. Pictured are (from left) pastor Dennis Duvall, White, and White's wife Betty.

### In other Church News:

➤ **Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville**, will present the Gospel show, *The Elvis Experience*, featuring Jason Baglio, at 2 p.m. on Sept. 30. Admission is free; a love offering will be taken.

➤ **First Church, Clara**, will hold its annual Autumn Celebration on Sept. 30, beginning at 4 p.m. All funds raised will go to support the Southern Baptist World Hunger Relief Fund. Features will include Olympic-style track and field games, food, and a silent auction.

Eight members of **FIRST CHURCH, STATE LINE**, went on a mission trip to Bozeman, Mt., where they conducted Vacation Bible Schools. Michael Street, pastor.



**FIRST CHURCH, PEARL**, recently ordained youth minister Chris Beam (third from left) to the Gospel ministry. Pictured with Beam are (from left) Michael Pierce, Calvin Williams, Michele Beam (wife), and Burn Page.



The children of **HANDBORO CHURCH, GULFPORT**, conducted a spaghetti supper and performed the musical, *Truth Works*, on Aug. 26.

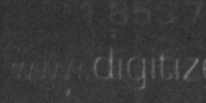
## College News

**BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** welcomed Jake Roudkovski (center), professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary, as the keynote speaker for the recent North Mississippi Pastors Day. Pictured with Roudkovski are Ron Meeks (left), BMC professor of biblical and associated studies, and BMC President Barbara Childers McMillin.



When 75 education students at **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** played host to 475 elementary students last spring in the first Literacy on the Lawn Day, early childhood education got a boost – and the program received national attention. The Kappa Delta Pi international honor society in education recently recognized BMC's Alpha Delta Psi chapter with its Literacy Alive! 2011-2012 Gold Achievement Award. Lela Hale, assistant professor of education at Blue Mountain College, dressed up as "Fancy Nancy" to read one of the popular children's books to a group of K-2 students.

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